

3 - Curate for the Biospecimen Research Database

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This page explains how to add scientific papers to the Biospecimen Research Database and use metadata to make it easier for researchers to find a particular paper of interest. It includes the following topics:

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Log in as a Curator

Once you log in you can access all of the administrative and maintenance functions of the Biospecimen Research Database application that you have been authorized to use.

To log in as a curator to the Biospecimen Research Database

1. Go to the [Biospecimen Research Database home page](#).
2. Click the login prompt in the left navigation bar. The Maintenance Login page appears.
3. Enter your username and password and then click **Login**. The BRN System Code Maintenance page appears.



Note

For username and password assignments or any problems with logging in, contact biospecimens@mail.nih.gov.

Curation Tips

Curators should read the “materials and methods” section of a paper as part of a pre-screening strategy to see if the paper sufficiently describes the various ways that biospecimens are collected, processed, and stored.

Curators should focus on reporting the hypotheses, methods, and results of a paper, as opposed to evaluating the paper.

Only studies that pertain to biospecimen science should be included in the database.

Curators must confirm the correct spelling of their entries.

Add and Edit Published Papers

Add Published Papers

To add published papers

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Click **Add Published Paper**. The Add/Edit Published Paper page appears.

Add/Edit Published Paper

PubMed ID:

Import Paper Data From PubMed

*Paper Title:

*Author(s):

Manage Authors

Journal:

Publication Yr:

Volume:

Page Number:

Purpose of Paper:

Conclusion of Paper:

☐ Check this box if this is a review paper

Status

Complete [BPB] (Pu▼)

*Entry Required

Save

Add Study to Paper

Delete Paper

Cancel

3. If available, add the paper's PubMed ID and then click the **Import Paper Data from PubMed** button. Information from PubMed automatically populates the following fields: paper title, author(s), journal name, publication year, volume, and page number.
4. If PubMed is not available, add information about the published paper, i.e., Journal, Publication Year, Volume, and Page Number.



Note

Use the standard PubMed abbreviation for Journal.

5. In the Paper Title field, enter the paper's full title.
6. Click **Manage Authors**. The Select Paper Authors page appears.
 - a. Search for the author's name by scrolling the Available Authors list. If the author appears in that list, select the name and click **Add**. The author's name moves to the Paper Authors list.
 - b. If a paper author does not yet appear in the Available Authors list, enter the author's name in the Add New Author area of the page. Click **Save**. The author's name appears in the Paper Authors list.
 - c. Click **Back** to return to the Add/Edit Published Paper page.
7. After reviewing the paper, complete the Purpose of Paper and Conclusion of Paper fields. Since this information may not be obvious from the title or abstract, provide as much detail into these fields as possible.
8. If the paper is a review paper, check the box at the bottom of the page.
9. Select the appropriate Paper Status field from the list. Note that to view papers with an "In progress" status, users must be logged in,

while the public can view papers with a "Complete" status.

10. Click **Save**. A confirmation message appears asking if you are sure you want to add or update this paper.
11. Click **OK**. The message `createPaperSuccess` appears at the top of the page.
12. Add associated studies to the paper by clicking **Add Study to Paper**. See [Manage Study Entries](#) for more information.

Edit Published Paper Entries

To edit published paper entries

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Search for the published paper you want to edit. For more information on searching the database, see [Search Overview](#). The Search Results page appears.
3. Select the paper that you want to edit. If you have the privilege to edit the paper, the Paper and Study Details page appears with an Edit button in the upper right corner.
4. Click **Edit**. The Add/Edit Published Paper page appears showing the paper's editable fields.
5. Edit any field on the page as needed. For more information on providing information in the Add/Edit Published Paper page, see [Add Published Papers](#).
6. Click **Save**. A confirmation message appears asking if you are sure you want to add or update this paper.
7. Click **OK**. The message `updatePaperSuccess` appears at the top of the page.

Manage Paper Authors

When you add papers to the Biospecimen Research Database, you must select authors from a list. As curator you can manage this list by adding new authors or correcting the spelling of author names.

To manage paper authors

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Add or edit a published or unpublished paper. For more information, see [Add and Edit Published Papers](#) and [Add and Editing Unpublished Papers](#).
3. From the Add/Edit Published Paper or Add/Edit Unpublished Paper page, click **Manage Authors**. The Select Paper Authors page appears.
4. Search for the author's name by scrolling the Available Authors list. If the author appears in that list, select the name and click **Add**. The author's name moves to the Paper Authors list.
 - If a paper author does not yet appear in the Available Authors list, enter the author's name in the Add New Author area of the page. Click **Save**. The author's name appears in the Paper Authors list.
 - If the name of a paper author in the list is spelled incorrectly, select the name in the Available Authors list and then click **Edit Selected Author**. The Edit Author area appears below the list. In the Name field, enter the author's name and then click **Save**. The corrected name appears immediately in the Available Authors list. The message `updateAuthorSuccess` appears at the top of the page.
5. Click **Back** to return to your starting page.

Add and Edit Unpublished Papers

Add Unpublished Papers

To add unpublished papers

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Click **Add Unpublished Paper**. The Add/Edit Unpublished Paper page appears.
3. In the Paper Title field, enter the paper's full title.
4. Click **Manage Authors**. The Select Paper Authors page appears.
 - a. Search for the author's name by scrolling the Available Authors list. If the author appears in that list, select the name and click **Add**. The author's name moves to the Paper Authors list.
 - b. If a paper author does not yet appear in the Available Authors list, enter the author's name in the Add New Author area of the page. Click **Save**. The author's name appears in the Paper Authors list.
 - c. Click **Back** to return to the Add/Edit Unpublished Paper page.
5. If possible, upload the paper in Portable Document Format (PDF) to the Biospecimen Research Database by clicking **Browse**, locating the file, and then clicking **Load PDF**.
6. Add other information about the published paper such as the Paper Date (in ddmm-yy format), Purpose of Paper, and Conclusion of Paper.
7. Click **Save**. A message appears asking you to confirm the addition of the paper.
8. Click **OK**. If the paper is added to the database successfully, the message `createPaperSuccess` appears in red at the top of the page.
9. If you want to add associated studies to this paper, click **Add Study to Paper**. See [Manage Study Entries](#) for more information.

Edit Unpublished Paper Entries

To edit unpublished paper entries

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Search for the unpublished paper you want to edit. For more information on searching, see [Search Overview](#). The Search Results page appears.
3. Select the paper that you want to edit. If you have the privilege to edit the paper, the Paper and Study Details page appears with an Edit button in the upper right corner.
4. Click **Edit**. The Add/Edit Unpublished Paper page appears showing the paper's editable fields.
5. Edit any field on the page as needed. For more information on providing information in the Add/Edit Unpublished Paper page, see [Add Unpublished Papers](#).
6. Click **Save**. A confirmation message appears asking if you are sure you want to add or update this paper.
7. Click **OK**. The message *updatePaperSuccess* appears at the top of the page.

Manage Study Entries

Once you add a paper to the Biospecimen Research Database, you can add studies to it and also edit those study entries.



Note

Mention genes relevant to the studies in the Study Purpose and Summary of Findings fields.

Add Studies to Papers

To add studies to papers

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Add or edit a published or unpublished paper. For more information, see [Add and Edit Published Papers](#) and [Add and Edit Unpublished Papers](#).
3. From the Add/Edit Unpublished Paper or Add/Edit Published Paper page, click **Add Study to Paper**. The Add/Edit Study page appears.
4. Enter text in the Study Purpose box (required).
5. From the relevant lists, select a Biospecimen Type (required), Biospecimen Location (required), and Preservative Type.
6. From the Diagnosis list, select a diagnosis. While it is not an exhaustive list of every human disease, this list contains many of the most common diagnoses. If the accurate diagnosis is not present in the list, select "Other diagnoses". For a Neoplastic diagnosis, select a diagnosis subcategory. For more information about selecting a diagnosis subcategory, see [Match Tumor Types to Diagnosis Subcategories](#).



Note

Note that the adjacent nontumor tissue appears under the diagnosis neoplastic and the diagnosis subcategory of normal adjacent.

7. Click **Add Diagnosis**.



Note

To delete a diagnosis you have entered (for example, you chose a third diagnosis when only the first two were relevant to the paper), in the Diagnoses Entered area, select the checkbox in the Remove column for that diagnosis and then click **Remove Selected Diagnosis**.

8. In the Add Analyte/Platform section, select an analyte and companion technology platform. Repeat as often as necessary for the study.



Note

Each analyte has a different subset of available technology platforms. It is possible that different analytes may share the same technology platform. Also, the available technology platforms are managed through mapping. See [Map an Analyte to Technology Platforms](#) for more information.

9. Click **Add Technology Platform**.
10. For each experimental factor that the study investigated, repeat the following procedure:
 - a. Select a factor classification.
 - b. Select a factor. Available factors are determined by the factor classification.
 - c. Select the appropriate value from the predefined list of permissible values. If you do not see the value in the list or do not see a list at all, click **Add new value** and enter the value's name and its description. Note that an experimental factor can contain either permissible values or custom values, but not both. You must always manually enter experimental factors with custom values.

**Note**

For custom values, use the standard abbreviations in the [International System of Units \(SI Units\)](#) and the [standard abbreviations outside the SI](#), such as minutes.

d. Click **Add Experimental Factor**.

11. Enter text in the Summary of Findings box.

12. Click **Save**. A message appears asking you to confirm the addition of the study.

13. Click **OK**. If the study is added to the paper successfully, the message *createStudySuccess* appears in red at the top of the page.

**Note**

To continue adding more studies to the current paper, click **Create New Study for Current Paper**.

Match Tumor Types to Diagnosis Subcategories

When adding studies to papers, curators must assign accurate diagnoses and diagnosis subcategories, as necessary. When a paper uses tumor specimens and you select the diagnosis Neoplastic, which subcategory to choose may not always be obvious. For example, a paper may use glioblastoma multiforme biospecimens, a type of carcinoma.

The following table presents some of the more common cancer diagnoses that curators may assign to studies, definitions of those diagnoses, and links to their subcategories. If the diagnosis you are looking for is not included in this table, an online search might help you decide which diagnosis to choose.

Tumor Type (Diagnosis)	Definition and Link to Diagnosis Subcategories
Carcinoma	Cancer that begins in the skin or in tissues that line or cover internal organs. See specific types .
Germ cell	A type of tumor that begins in the cells that give rise to sperm or eggs. Germ cell tumors can occur almost anywhere in the body and can be either benign or malignant. See specific types .
Leukemia	Cancer that starts in blood-forming tissue such as the bone marrow and causes large numbers of blood cells to be produced and enter the bloodstream. See specific types .
Lymphoma	Cancer that begins in cells of the immune system. There are two basic categories of lymphomas: Hodgkin lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphomas. See specific types .
Melanoma	A form of cancer that begins in melanocytes (cells that make the pigment melanin). It may begin in a mole (skin melanoma), but can also begin in other pigmented tissues, such as in the eye or in the intestines. See specific types .
Pediatric	Having to do with children. See specific types .
Sarcoma	A cancer of the bone, cartilage, fat, muscle, blood vessels, or other connective or supportive tissue. See specific types .

Edit Study Entries

You can edit studies you have curated. If you did not curate the study you want to edit, you can only view the study.

To edit study entries

1. [Search](#) for a study.
2. On the Search Results page, select the study you want to edit by clicking the author link. If you have the privilege to edit the paper, the Paper and Study Details page appears with an Edit button in the upper right corner.
3. Scroll down the page to the Studies area. Click the **Detail** link for the study you want to edit. If you have the privilege to edit the paper, the Study Details page appears with an Edit button in the upper right corner.
4. Click **Edit**. The Add/Edit Study page appears.
5. Change any of the information associated with the paper on this page. Refer to [Manage Study Entries](#) for more information.
6. Click **Save**. A message appears asking you to confirm your edits.
7. Click **OK**. If your edits were incorporated into the study's entry successfully, the message *updateStudySuccess* appears in red at the top of the page.

Delete Study Entries

You can delete studies you have curated. If you did not curate the study you want to delete, you can only view the study.

To delete study entries

1. [Search for a study](#).
2. On the Search Results page, select the study you want to delete by clicking the author link. The Paper and Study Details page appears.
3. Click **Edit** in the upper-right corner. The Add/Edit Published Paper page appears.
4. Scroll down the page to the Studies area. Click the **Detail** link for the study you want to edit. The Study Details page appears.
5. Click **Edit** in the upper-right corner. The Add/Edit Study page appears.
6. Scroll to the end of the page and click **Delete Study**.
7. Click **Save**. A message appears asking you to confirm the deletion.
8. Click **OK**. If you successfully deleted the study, the message *deleteStudySuccess* appears in red at the top of the page.

Add and Edit Database Values

Experimental factors, biospecimen types, biospecimen locations, and technology platforms are all managed for common use by studies in the Biospecimen Research Database. Curators can add and edit them.



Note

The database values included in this section are the only ones curators should modify. If you would like to make changes to any other values, contact biospecimens@mail.nih.gov.

Add and Edit Experimental Factors

Curators can add and edit the experimental factors that the Biospecimen Research Database makes available to all studies. When adding an experimental value, use the standard abbreviations in the [International System of Units \(SI Units\)](#) and the [standard abbreviations outside the SI](#), such as minutes.

To add an experimental factor

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Click **Add/Edit Experimental Factors**. The Add/Edit Experimental Factors page appears.
3. Select a classification for the experimental factor by highlighting it in the Classification list. Options include:

Classification	Explanation
Preacquisition	Refers to factors that apply to the biospecimen prior to its removal from the patient.
Biospecimen Acquisition	Refers to factors that apply to the biospecimen during the acquisition process.
Biospecimen Aliquots and Components	Refers to factors that pertain to derivatives of the procured biospecimen or the process implemented to obtain them.
Biospecimen Preservation	Refers to factors that apply to the biospecimen during biologic stabilization.
Storage	Refers to factors related to storage of the procured biospecimen or its derivatives.
Analyte Extraction and Purification	Refers to factors that apply to isolation and purification of a specific analyte from a procured biospecimen or its derivatives.
Platform-specific Methodology	Refers to factors that are both associated with a technological method and affected by a preanalytical variable. For example, the success of in situ hybridization in differentially preserved biospecimens is dependent upon the type of probe used.

4. Click the **Add Factor** button. An Add Experimental Factor section appears below the button.
5. Enter a name (required) and description (optional) for the new experimental factor in the relevant fields.
6. Click **Save**. The new factor appears in the Experimental Factors list and the *Added new ExperimentalFactor [Name]* message appears at the top of the page.

To edit an experimental factor

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Click **Add/Edit Experimental Factors**. The Add/Edit Experimental Factors page appears.
3. To edit an experimental factor, select a classification for the experimental factor you want to edit. For more information on classifications, see [Add and Edit Experimental Factors](#).
 - a. From the Experimental Factors list, select an experimental factor by highlighting it. The Edit button becomes active.
 - b. Click **Edit**. An Edit Experimental Factor section appears at the bottom of the page.
 - c. Change the experimental factor's name, description, and classification as needed.

**Note**

Keep the term *Description* at the beginning of each experimental factor's description.

- d. Click **Save**. If your edit is successful, the message Edited Experimental Factor appears at the top of the page.
4. To edit an experimental factor's permissible values, which appear in the Permissible Values list on the right, select an experimental factor, and then select the value you want to change.
 - a. Click the **Edit** button below the list. An Edit Permissible Values section appears at the bottom of the page.
 - b. Change the permissible value's name and description as needed.

**Note**

Precede the permissible value's description with the word *Description*.

- c. Click **Save**. If your edit is successful, the message Edited Permissible Value appears at the top of the page.

Add and Edit Biospecimen Types

Curators can add and edit the biospecimen types that the Biospecimen Research Database makes available for all studies.

To add a biospecimen type

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Click **Add/Edit Biospecimen Types**. The Add/Edit Biospecimen Types page appears.
3. Click **Add Type**. The Add Biospecimen Type section appears at the bottom of the page.
4. Enter a name for the new biospecimen type. This entry is required.
5. Enter a description for the new biospecimen type.
6. Click **Save**. The new biospecimen type appears in the Biospecimen Type list.

To edit a biospecimen type

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Click **Add/Edit Biospecimen Types**. The Add/Edit Biospecimen Types page appears.
3. Select the biospecimen type you want to edit. The Edit button becomes active.
4. Click **Edit**. The Edit Biospecimen Type section appears at the bottom of the page.
5. Change the biospecimen type's name and description as needed.
6. Click **Save**. The edited biospecimen type appears in the Biospecimen Type list.

Add and Edit Biospecimen Locations

Curators can add and edit the biospecimen locations that the Biospecimen Research Database makes available for all studies.

To add a biospecimen location

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Click **Add/Edit Biospecimen Locations**. The Add/Edit Biospecimen Locations page appears.
3. Click **Add Location**. The Add Biospecimen Locations section appears at the bottom of the page.
4. Enter a name for the new biospecimen location. This entry is required.
5. Enter a description for the new biospecimen location.
6. Click **Save**. The new biospecimen location appears in the Biospecimen Location list.

To edit a biospecimen location

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Click **Add/Edit Biospecimen Locations**. The Add/Edit Biospecimen Locations page appears.
3. Select a biospecimen location. The Edit button becomes active.
4. Click **Edit**. The Edit Biospecimen Location section appears at the bottom of the page.
5. Change the biospecimen location's name and description as needed.
6. Click **Save**. The edited biospecimen location appears in the Biospecimen Locations list.

Add and Edit Technology Platforms

Curators can add and edit the technology platforms that the Biospecimen Research Database makes available for all studies.

To add a technology platform

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.

2. Click **Add/Edit Technology Platform**. The Add/Edit Technology Platforms page appears.
3. Click **Add Tech Platform**. The Add Technology Platform section appears below that button.
4. Enter a name for the new technology platform. This entry is required.
5. Enter a description for the new biospecimen location.
6. Click **Save**. The new technology platform appears in the Technology Platform list.

To edit a technology platform

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Click **Add/Edit Technology Platform**. The Add/Edit Technology Platform page appears.
3. Select a technology platform. The Edit button becomes active.
4. Click **Edit**. The Edit Technology Platform section appears at the bottom of the page.
5. Change the technology platform's name and description as needed.
6. Click **Save**. The edited technology platform appears in the Technology Platform list.

Map Database Values

Maps that you create between database values allow curators to ensure that the appropriate associations are made between items that are only relevant to particular factors.

You must associate a technology platform with the analyte upon which it acts. For example, Southern Blots are used to assay DNA, therefore you would map the Southern Blot platform to DNA rather than RNA, protein, or any other analyte.



Note

You can map the same technology platform to different analytes.

To map an analyte to technology platforms

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Click **Map Analyte to Technology Platforms**. The Map Analyte to Technology Platforms page appears.
3. From the Analyte list, select an analyte by highlighting it.
4. Move all of the technology platforms that should be associated with the selected analyte to the Associated Platforms list. If a technology platform you want to select is in the Available Platforms list, select it and click **Add**.
5. If a technology platform that should not be associated with the selected analyte is in the Associated Platforms list, select it and click **Remove** to move it to the Available Platforms list. The change in mapping takes effect immediately. To return to the BRN System Code Maintenance page, click **Back**.

Map Technology Platforms to Experimental Factors

You must associate an experimental factor classified as Platform-specific methodology to a technology platform. For example, in Enzyme-Linked ImmunoSorbent Assays (ELISA), one technician might slam the 96-well plate on the counter to clear it of residue while another technician might not. In this case, the experimental factor "slam: yes or no" would be specific to the ELISA platform.

To map technology platforms to experimental factors

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database.
2. Click **Map Technology Platforms to Experimental Factors**. The Map Technology Platforms to Experimental Factors page appears.
3. From the Tech. Platform list, select a technology platform by highlighting it.
4. Move all of the experimental factors that should be associated with the selected technology platform to the Associated Factors list. If an experimental factor you want to select is in the Available Factors list, select it and click **Add**.
5. If an experimental factor that should not be associated with the selected technology platform is in the Associated Factors list, select it and click **Remove** to move it to the Available Factors list.

The change in mapping takes effect immediately. To return to the BRN System Code Maintenance page, click **Back**.

Map Biospecimen Types to Biospecimen Locations

Mapping biospecimen types with biospecimen locations makes it possible to associate this information with studies you curate.

To map biospecimen types to biospecimen locations

1. [Log in](#) to the Biospecimen Research Database. For more information, see [Log in as a Curator](#).
2. Click **Map Biospecimen Types to Biospecimen Locations**. The Map Biospecimen Types to Biospecimen Locations page appears.
3. From the Biospecimen Types list, select a biospecimen type by highlighting it.
4. Move all of the biospecimen locations that should be associated with the selected biospecimen type to the Associated Locations list. If a biospecimen location you want to select is in the Available Locations list, select it and click **Add**.
5. If a biospecimen location that should not be associated with the selected biospecimen type is in the Associated Locations list, select it and click **Remove** to move it to the Available Locations list. The change in mapping takes effect immediately. To return to the BRN

System Code Maintenance page, click **Back**.

Add Users and Roles

The Biospecimen Research Database uses the CBIIT Common Security Module (CSM) User Provisioning Tool to manage users and roles. For full documentation of these tasks, see the "Using the User Provisioning Tool" section of the [caCORE CSM Programmer's Guide](#).

[2 - Search the Biospecimen Research Database](#)

[Biospecimen Research Database 2.0 User's Guide](#)